

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U 39 E) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction of the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project.

Application 02-09-043  
(Filed September 30, 2002)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING**

**I. SUMMARY**

Public Utilities Code § 1002(a) requires this Commission to give consideration to the following additional factors before granting any certificate: 1) Community values, 2) Recreational and park areas, 3) Historical and aesthetic values, and 5) Influences on the environment. Because CEQA weighs only environmental effects certain alternatives were eliminated from full consideration in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). This ruling directs the Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to undertake a full analysis of two route options.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) seeks a CPCN to construct a new 230 kV electric transmission line between PG&E's Jefferson and Martin substations. The Proposed Project would parallel I-280 for much of the southern segment, crossing Peninsula watershed lands owned by the

City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). The northern segment of the Proposed Project would route along San Bruno Avenue and the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) right of way in the City of San Bruno, follow the BART right of way through the City of South San Francisco, and then route along a number of city streets through the Town of Colma, Daly City, and Brisbane to the Martin substation.

During the proceeding, there was a great deal of public interest and concern regarding potential health effects from Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure due to power lines.<sup>1</sup> Several intervenors along the proposed Jefferson-Martin route ask that the Commission choose a route that reduces or eliminates the risks associated with EMF exposure, particularly to high priority groups including schools, day care centers, and residences.

Because the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) weighs only environmental effects certain alternatives were eliminated from full consideration in the FEIR. Specifically, PG&E's Route Option 2A which would run north in El Camino Real for about 3.7 miles past San Bruno was eliminated from full consideration because it would cause traffic problems and a disruption to businesses during construction.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the FEIR

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<sup>1</sup> Electric fields are created whenever power lines are energized, whereas magnetic fields are created when current flows through the lines. Both electric and magnetic fields attenuate rapidly with distance from the source. Electric fields are effectively shielded by materials such as trees or buildings, whereas magnetic fields are not easily shielded by objects or materials. Therefore, concerns regarding potential power line EMF health effects arise primarily due to exposure to magnetic fields.

<sup>2</sup> PG&E's Route Option 2A would run north in El Camino Real for about 3.7 miles past San Bruno Avenue before turning east on Lawndale/McLellan Drive

did not consider an alternate route across San Bruno Mountain as Daly City proposed in its joinder in the motion of South San Francisco and Concerned Businesses East of Highway 101. However, it eliminated a San Bruno Mountain alternatives which runs along the existing 60 kV utility corridor from full consideration largely because the CEQA analysis underlying the FEIR does not consider the impact of activities already occurring, current environmental mitigation measures, or facilities already in existence.<sup>3</sup>

### **III. DISCUSSION**

In addition to CEQA, this Commission must comply with the provisions of the Public Utilities Code. Specifically, Public Utilities Code § 1002(a) requires this Commission to give consideration to the following additional factors before granting any certificate: 1) Community values, 2) Recreational and park areas, 3) Historical and aesthetic values, and 5) Influences on the environment.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code §1002(a) we now direct Aspen to undertake an analysis that gives full consideration to PG&E's Route Option 2A and an above ground route across the San Bruno Mountain to the Martin substation as propose by Daly City. Aspen is directed to file the results of this analysis in this proceeding on or before 10 a.m. on July 6, 2004. Aspen is further directed to submit to the Assigned Commissioner

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where it would rejoin the proposed route at the corner of Lawndale/McLellan and El Camino Real.

<sup>3</sup> The San Bruno Mountain alternatives would turn north from Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and follow the existing 60 kV utility corridor for approximately 0.4 miles down the mountain paralleling Linda Vista Drive into the Martin Substation.

and Administrative Law Judge weekly updates summarizing its progress, results obtained to date, obstacles encountered, and remaining tasks. To facilitate Aspen's analysis, and in the interest of efficiency, PG&E is directed to provide to Aspen all of its prior environmental assessments of the San Bruno Mountain alternatives on or before Friday June 11, 2004.

Based on the results and consistent with our responsibilities under Pub. Util. Code § 1002 we may choose to supplement the FEIR so that we may determine whether to alter the Proposed Project route to incorporate one or both of these alternatives.

**IT IS RULED** that:

1. Aspen shall undertake an analysis of PG&E's Route Option 2A and the San Bruno Mountain alternatives.
2. Aspen shall submit the results of its analysis to the Commission on or before July 6, 2004.
3. Aspen shall submit to the Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge weekly updates summarizing its progress, results obtained to date, obstacles encountered, and remaining tasks.
4. PG&E shall provide to Aspen all of its prior environmental assessments of the San Bruno Mountain alternatives on or before Friday June 11, 2004.

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/s/ LORETTA LYNCH  
Loretta Lynch  
Assigned Commissioner

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated June 8, 2004, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ EVELYN P. GONZALES

**N O T I C E**

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

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